REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 have been amended to merely clarify the recited invention without the intention of narrowing the scope of the claims. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-13, 15, 17-20 are now pending.

In response to the objections raised by the Examiner in Section 2 of the Office Action, dated March 21, 2003, claims 1, 8, 11, and 18 have been amended to overcome the informality objections.

In Section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-13, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sweatte (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,688). Since claims 6 and 16 have been canceled in the previous Amendment, here we address only the Examiner's rejection with respect to claims 1-3, 7, 11-13, and 17. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Sweatte fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in the amended claims.

According to amended claim 1, a bearer of a Travel Document (TD) inserts the TD into an insertion port so that individual information recorded on the TD and specific information printed on the TD can be read by a reader. After certain biological information of the bearer is acquired, the acquired biological information is collated with the individual information read from the TD. A passing ticket is issued **only when** the authenticity of the bearer is successfully verified based on the specific information read from the TD and when the biological information acquired from the bearer is in agreement with the individual information read from the TD.

Therefore, according to the recited invention, when the authenticity of a bearer is not successfully validated, no passing ticket is issued to the bearer. Since a passing ticket

is required to pass a gate in order to leave, the bearer is **permitted to depart after** the authenticity of the bearer is **successfully validated**. The bearer is not permitted to depart if the authenticity validation is not successful.

Sweatte discloses an airport security system in which a check-in counter issues a wireless PASS smartcard to be used by the passenger as an electronic boarding pass in order to depart regardless if the passenger is validated or not. The passenger is permitted to depart as soon as the PASS is issued. That is, the security system taught by Sweatte permits a passenger to depart even if the passenger validation fails. If the check against the database indicates any problem, the PASS card is tracked wirelessly to pursue the departed passenger (see column 4, line 26 to column 5, line 9).

According to Sweatte, the authenticity of the data obtained from the passenger at the check-in counter is not examined when such is collected, the PASS smartcard is issued before the check is completed, and the **passenger is allowed to leave the check point prior to being validated**.

In the present invention, a TD is authenticated immediately after the TD is presented, the collected individual information and biological information are verified **before** a passing ticket is issued, and the issuance of the passing ticket **depends on the verification results**. A bearer who is **not validated** by the passing examination system according to the present invention is **not allowed to depart**.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. Claim 1 is now patentable.

Amended claim 11 contains features similar to those claimed in claim 1. As stated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database is to be completed **before** a PASS smartcard is issued and that a passenger **cannot depart before the passenger is approved**, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. Claim 11 is now patentable.

Claims 2, 3, and 7 depend from claim 1. Consequently, claims 2, 3, and 7 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2, 3, and 7 under §102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 13, and 17 depend from claim 11. Consequently, claims 12, 13, and 17 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 11 and for the additional features recited therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 12, 13, and 17 under §102(e) be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 8-10, 15, and 18-20 have been rejected (Section 7 of the Office Action) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweatte (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,688). The rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, Sweatte fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in rejected claims.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and, as indicated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database is to be completed **before** a PASS smartcard is issued and that a **passenger cannot depart before the passenger is validated**, as recited in claim 1.

Consequently, claim 5 is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 5 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 15 depends from claim 11 and, as indicated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database is to be completed **before** a PASS smartcard is issued and that a **passenger cannot depart before the passenger is validated**, as recited in claim 11.

Consequently, claim 15 is patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 11 and for the additional features recited therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 15 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 8 claims a passing examination system with multiple check points. According to claim 8, a first check point contains features similar to those claimed in claim 1. With respect to the features claimed in claim 1, Sweatte does not teach or suggest that the check of collected information against a database is to be completed before a PASS smartcard is issued and that a passenger cannot depart before the passenger is validated, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, a second check point is included in claim 8 with features substantially similar to the first check point claimed where authentication is validated before a passenger is permitted to depart. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn. Claim 8 is now patentable over Sweatte.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 8 and as stated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest a check point where the check of collected information against a database is to be completed **before** a PASS smartcard is issued and a **passenger cannot depart before the passenger is validated**, as recited in claim 8. In addition, Sweatte does not teach or suggest a second check point with features substantially similar to the first check point, as recited in claim 8.

Consequently, claims 9 and 10 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 8 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Amended claim 18 contains features similar to those claimed in claim 8. As stated above, Sweatte does not teach or suggest a security system with multiple check points

where the check of collected information against a database is to be completed **before** a PASS smartcard is issued and a **passenger cannot depart before the passenger is approved or authenticated**, as recited in claim 8.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn. Claim 18 is now patentable.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18. Consequently, claims 19 and 20 are patentable at least for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 18 and for the addition features recited therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 19 and 20 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto as an attached Appendix captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"** is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: _____

Dale S. Lazar
Reg. No.: 28872
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2126
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

DSL/QCH:mll
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, Virginia 22102

(703) 905-2000

Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A passing examination system comprising:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual information which specifies a bearer;

a reader to read the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion port by the bearer;

an acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader;

an examination portion to examine [the] authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and determine whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the collator;

a passing ticket issuer to issue a passing ticket to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass by the examination portion and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved; and

a gate to approve the passage of the bearer by accepting the passing ticket issued by the passing ticket issuer to the bearer who is approved to pass thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket.

8. (Twice Amended) A passing examination system comprising:

an insertion port to receive a Travel Document (TD) recording individual information which specifies a bearer;

a reader to read the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted into the insertion port by the bearer;

a first acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a first collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the first acquiring portion with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer by the reader;

a first examination portion to examine [the] authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and determine whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the first collator;

a passing ticket issuer to issue a passing ticket recording the biological information that has been collated by the first collator to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass by the first examination portion and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved;

a first gate to accept an inserted passing ticket issued to the bearer who is approved to pass by the passing ticket issuer, approving the passage of the bearer in a first direction and returning the accepted passing ticket to the bearer thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket;

a passing ticket insertion port to accept the passing ticket inserted by the bearer when the bearer moves in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the bearer passes the first gate in the first direction;

a passing ticket reader to read the biological information from the passing ticket inserted into the passing ticket insertion port by the bearer;

a second acquiring portion to acquire biological information of the bearer;

a second collator to collate the biological information of the bearer acquired by the second acquiring portion with the biological information read from the passing ticket by the passing ticket reader;

a second examination portion to approve the passage of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of collation by the second collator; and

a second gate to permit the passage of the bearer in the second direction based on the approval of the passage of the bearer by the second examination portion.

11. (Twice Amended) A passing examination method, comprising:

accepting an inserted TD containing individual information specifying a bearer of the TD;

reading the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD after the TD is inserted by the bearer;

acquiring biological information of the bearer;

collating the acquired biological information of the bearer with the individual information read from the TD of the bearer;

examining [the] authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the collation;

issuing a passing ticket to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass an

immigration gate by the examination and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved; and

approving the passage of the bearer by accepting the inserted passing ticket thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket.

18. (Twice Amended) A passing examination method, comprising:

accepting a Travel Document (TD) recording individual information specifying a bearer;

reading the individual information from the TD and specific information printed on the TD, wherein the TD is inserted into an insertion port by the bearer;

acquiring the biological information of the bearer;

collating the acquired biological information of the bearer with the individual information read from the TD;

examining [the] authenticity of the TD based on the specific information read from the TD by the reader and whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the collation;

issuing a passing ticket recording the collated biological information to the bearer only when the bearer is approved to pass a gate in the examination and to withhold issuance of the passing ticket if the bearer is not approved;

approving the bearer to pass the gate in a first direction by accepting the passing ticket after the passing ticket is inserted by the bearer who is approved to pass and returning the accepted passing ticket to the bearer thereby to prevent the bearer who is not approved from passing the gate without the passing ticket;

accepting the passing ticket after the returned passing ticket is inserted again when

the bearer moves in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the bearer passes in the first direction;

reading the biological information recorded on the passing ticket that is inserted by the bearer;

acquiring the bearer's biological information;

examining whether to approve the passing of the bearer based on whether the biological information of the bearer and the individual information read from the TD of the bearer are in agreement as a result of the collation; and

approving the passing of the bearer in the second direction.